



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 02/08/2012

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 8th, 2012

Present: Sally Naish, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Walter Phillips, Corinna Vanderspek, Greg Watt (minutes), Ed Trembly, Mike Asaro (Scout Troop 302)

Absent: Jim Dodge, Patti Muldoon, Andrew Fischer, Lisa Decker, Clarissa Rowe

1. Approval of January Meeting Minutes: Approved without revision

2. Eagle Scout Project: Mike Asaro of Scout Troop 213 would like to plant trees with the ATC to satisfy his Eagle Scout project. He is interested in organizing the planting of approximately 30 trees. He will plan for this project to take place next year while Mike participates in tree planting this year.

3. Review of meeting w/ JD (SN)

- DPW has no money in the budget for the spring planting, but hope to plant 100-150 trees if funds become available. Hope to know funding status by end of month.
- Trees cost \$75-80 each, while installation is "\$0" when planted by DPW. (Tibbetts planted 50 trees for \$5K in the Fall.) Tree Division will do the planting this Spring
- DPW does not plan to use Trees Please funds to purchase/ plant trees
- JD is open to using volunteers to help plant in order to buy more trees. If planting takes place on a weekend, DPW workers would be paid overtime, which may have to come from TP Fund.
- JD is open to ATC helping w/ tree selection, but cost should be w/in usual \$75-80 range. Will plant elm at Paul Revere & Appleton
- The ATC can organize its own planting and order trees thru Jean by mid-March. Planting sites must be within 20' setback of curb, and planting in parks requires approval of Joe Connolly and Con. Com., as appropriate.

4. Town's Spring Tree Planting

DPW needs tree planting locations - they have very few requests on hand. Plan to write Advocate article soliciting requests for trees from residents/businesses. Discussed crafting the wording of this so that residents do not feel promised a tree this year, but we are building a database of sites where trees are needed. Sally will run the letter by JD, and Eliza will draft the letter. ATC can add value by supporting site selection and species selection. Discussed marginal benefits of the tree gators used last year and thought they might not be worth the cost. Planting sub-committee volunteers: Mary Ellen, Sally, Eliza, Ed

5. NStar update - outcome of Jan. 13 mtg?

Lucas did a good job pruning on Gray St, but the NStar arborist ordered more severe pruning w/ result that half tree taken. Ban imposed again. Appears NStar or public utilities want 10,10,15 criteria (instead of 8,8,10/12, currently). Ed to contact Rep. Garballey to see if tree pruning legislation pending.

6. Tree Nursery

There was some discussion at the last meeting about the feasibility of a street tree nursery for Arlington. There were several ideas about possible locations, for example Park Circle (not suitable - manhole covers everywhere), the cemetery (no space), and around Thorndike Field (would need to check with Conservation and Rec. Commissions). Vandalism often a problem in past. JD would support idea, if can find right location; he questioned who would care for them.

7. Tree Inventory

EB will be the ATC contact with Adam Kurowski, Town's GIS Coordinator, and will update him on ATC initiatives on a monthly basis. DPW director says to wait on tree inventory while Tree Dept and Adam work on building a database of the backlog of requests to prune trees damaged in the big storm this year.

8. Publicity (CV)

- ALB workshop (CV) will take place on 5/19/12 at 2PM at the Senior Center and will be free to participants. CV will advertise in the Advocate.
- SN and CV will present a workshop on tree planting in May for Arl. Adult Ed.

9. Tree Committee Roles and Responsibilities (CV, EB)

Discussed how all ATC members are on 3-year appointment that end at the same time. Discussed benefits of staggering the terms, adding new blood and insuring longevity of committee.

10. Other Business

Current Planning Dept. regulations re. trees on newly developed sites (CV)

- CV spoke with Joey Glushko of the Town Planning Dep't about requirements for planting trees in new developments. Joey requested that the ATC recommend a Tree Bylaw so the ZBA and Redevelopment Board have a tool. ATC members should review Tree Bylaws of other towns and the Audobon website.
- Lexington's Tree Nursery (CV) - she will visit their nursery in the coming weeks
- EcoFest - voted to not sponsor a table at Ecofest since their focus is sustainable food.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00 pm in Selectmen's Chamber. (Note room change.)

Minutes: Mary Ellen Aronow

To Do:

- Planting sub-committee volunteers: Mary Ellen, Sally, Eliza, Ed
- Sally to call Clarissa about staggered ATC terms.
- ATC members should review Tree Bylaws of other towns and the Audobon website.
- Sally will run the proposed Advocate letter by JD, and Eliza will draft the letter.
- Ed will contact Sean Garballey to check whether tree pruning legislation pending via NStar.